



NORTH AMERICAN WOMEN'S DRAMA, SECOND EDITION



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North American Women's Drama, Second Edition

Whether in awards, production, or publication, plays by women have rarely received the attention they deserve. Of the many Pulitzer prizes for drama awarded since the inception of the prize in 1901, less than 10 percent have gone to women. From 1958 to 1981, not one woman received this prize.

North American Women's Drama, Second Edition aims to bring these writings the attention they deserve, by publishing the full text of 1,500 plays written from Colonial times to the present by more than 100 women from the United States and Canada. Many of the works are rare, hard to find, or out of print. Almost a quarter of the collection consists of previously unpublished plays.

Now for the first time, these plays can be studied, analyzed, and read with ease. Each play is extensively and deeply indexed, allowing both keyword and multi-fielded searching. The plays are accompanied by reference materials, significant ancillary information, a rich performance database, and associated resources. The result is an exceptionally deep and unified collection—to give voices to women, to represent women's issues, to break stereotypes, to examine women's views, to present women in various roles, and simply to entertain.

North American Women's Drama, Second Edition begins with the works of Mercy Otis Warren, Judith Sargent Murray, and Susanna Haswell Rowson in Colonial times. It includes a rich collection of 19th-century melodramas exploring topics from domestic entrapment to life on the frontier to the Underground Railroad. The database covers the campaign for voting rights, including propaganda plays, as well as the growing crusade for women's access to higher education and inclusion in various professions. The collection covers contemporary drama, including the works of performance artists. The database will be of particular interest for the study of feminism and women's studies.

Alexander Street's *Semantic Indexing* makes it possible to find and analyze particular dialogue, characters, and events, providing answers to key questions about the role of women in America. The following authors are included: Susan Glaspell, Sophie Treadwell, Rachel Crothers, Gertrude Stein, Beth Henley, Carol Bolt, Cherrie Moraga, Dorothy Heyward, Zona Gale, Lillian Hellman, Susan Sontag, Irene Maria Fornes, Zora Neale Hurston, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Megan Terry, Rochelle Owens, Shirley Graham DuBois, Jeannie Barroga, and others—more than 100 in all.

An index of terms, created specifically for this project, together with Alexander Street's *Semantic Indexing*, will let researchers easily find answers that, until now, have been impossible to uncover:

- What woman-authored plays have been produced in Atlanta since 1960?
- Show me all scenes on the subject of divorce in plays written before 1900.
- How have women's plays treated the subject of the Woman Suffrage Movement?
- Show me all scenes set in a factory in which women characters are laborers.
- Identify all plays written by women under the age of 20 who were born in the Midwest.
- Find a monologue by a female character who is a dancer.
- Locate all scenes representing sexual awakening or reflections on sexual identity.
- What plays written by women are set in World War II and contain female characters who are soldiers?



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